

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 ACDA-10 /098 W

-----222223Z 041268 /73

R 221405Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8714

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS DAKAR 1982

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, DM, GV

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON BENIN,
GUINEA AND WESTERN SAHARA

1. IN MARCH 17 PRESS CONFERENCE, SENEGALESE FOREIGN
MINISTER ASSANE SECK COMMENTED ON BENIN, GUINEA AND
WESTERN SAHARA (AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES REPORTED SEPTELS).

2. BENIN/GUINEA: QUESTIONED ON GUINEAN CHARGES OF
SENEGALESE AND IVOIRIAN COMPLICITY IN BENIN INVASION,
SECK SAID "WE HAVE BEEN THE OBJECT OF RADIO CONAKRY FOR
SOME YEARS...THESE ACCUSATIONS DO NOT MERIT A RESPONSE."
HE QUESTIONED TESTIMONY OF SOLE MERCENARY WHO
IMPLICATED SENEGAL AND, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THERE HAD BEEN
COMBAT IN BENIN, WONDERED ALOUD WHY ATTACKERS TOOK
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TIME TO RETRIEVED DEAD AND WOUNDED WHILE LEAVING THEIR "PASSPORTS,
IDENTIFICATION AND LAISSER-PASSER CARDS AND BANK
BOOKS" BEHIND. SECK SAID SENEGAL WAS "TOO FAR AWAY FROM
BENIN TO JUDGE," BUT HAD EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN TO "BROTHER
COUNTRIES" ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

3. SECK LATER ASSERTED THAT SENEGAL WOULD NOT ENTER

INTO A GAME WITH GUINEA IN MAKING ACCUSATIONS. "WE HAVE (OTHER) PREOCCUPATIONS THAN MAKING EXTERNAL ATTACKS," HE SAID. SECK INDICATED THAT SENEGAL HAD NOT LOST HOPE FOR FUTURE COOPERATION WITH GUINEA AND, IN MEANTIME, WOULD CONTINUE EXCHANGES IN FIELD OF SPORTS. AFTER REPLYING TO QUESTION ABOUT UNITA ACTIVITIES IN SENEGAL (DAKAR 1935), SECK COMMENTED THAT SENEGAL "PRIDES ITSELF" ON WELCOMING EXILES, AS LONG AS THOSE EXILES DO NOT USE SENEGAL AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS. HE NOTED THAT WELCOME EXTENDED TO EXILES WAS OBVIOUS FROM FACT THAT THERE WERE 500,000 GUINEANS IN SENEGAL.

4. WESTERN SAHARA: SECK STATED "WE SUPPORT, AND ALWAYS WILL SUPPORT, THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION, (BUT) THERE ARE SEVERAL MODALITIES TOWARDS DE-COLONIZATION." TRACING HISTORY OF WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION, SECK CONCLUDED "WE ACCEPT THE ACTION OF MADRIF (IN DIVIDING TERRITORY BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO), BUT IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSULT WITH THE (SAHARAN) PEOPLE...WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO OFFER WHATEVER HELP WE CAN, BUT THE POPULATION MUST BE CONSULTED."

5. OFFICIAL PRESS HAS TREATED SECK'S REMARKS AS "REAFFIRMATION" OF "CONSTANCY" OF SENEGALESE DIPLOMACY, RATHER THAN REFLECTING ANYTHING NEW.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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